

It was with great sadness that we received the news last month of the sudden death of Mr. F. M. McAuliffe. For many years he had given much time and effort to the San Francisco Art Association as a member of the Board, serving in the capacity of legal advisor to both the Association and the California School of Fine Arts.

#### ARTISTS' COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

In the last NEWSLETTER we gave the erroneous report that the "Art Bank" project had been definitely adopted by the Council. Although it had been discussed at some length, no final action had been taken.

In fact the last several meetings of the Council and the Artist Membership meeting of November 5th have been devoted for the most part to attempts to formulate a program of exhibitions, catalogues, photo files and/or an art bank which will serve to benefit the artist membership by procuring more nation-wide attention.

While many members of the Council agreed that a permanent art bank would be a definite asset, two important disadvantages were noted: first, funds needed to prepare exhibits and to publish catalogues would necessitate successful and sizeable fund-raising campaigns ever year; second, fund-raising, preparation of a showing room, the showing of work to interested visitors and the hanging of exhibitions would require a large amount of voluntary time from many artist-members. Past experience has indicated that projects relying upon regular volunteer time have few prospects of success.

Further suggestions, if the "art bank" project were abandoned, included a single large all-media "annual" juried each year by an Eastern juror. The total prize money would thus be as large as possible and, it was felt, would attract exhibitors from all parts of the nation making the exhibit a first-rank national show. However, the suggestion that appeared to meet with the favor of the majority at the Membership Meeting of November 5 was that the Association have two juried annual exhibitions: 1) Painting, and 2) Drawing and Prints. There was a good deal of pro and con discussion as to whether Sculpture should be included with the oils or with the drawing and prints. SEE BOX BELOW. In addition to these two juried shows, it was recommended that there be an annual or biennial open-to-all-members show for which a large catalogue would be published to include a photograph of one work of each exhibiting member. This catalogue would be distributed rather widely and would serve as a reference for museum directors, etc. outside of the immediate Bay Area.

Preliminary estimates of the cost of such catalogues were submitted, and it appeared feasible providing that each exhibitor would be responsible for the cost of the photograph of his work (estimated at between \$4 and \$6). The original photographs would be returned to the artists for their personal files. A further suggestion considered was to have the photographs enlarged and mounted to serve as an "art bank."

It is to be understood that there has been no final adoption of any of these programs, but rather costs and problems involved in them are under further investigation.

MEMBERS' OPINIONS ARE SOLICITED as to whether sculpture should be included with oil painting or with prints and drawings in the two juried annual exhibitions. Some feel that the inclusion of sculpture with prints and drawings would add stature to that exhibition and that much of the contemporary metal sculpture is similar to drawing in feeling and would show to better advantage. Others are of the opinion that the traditional combination of oils and sculpture is necessary to provide an important show in these categories.

Further, if the foregoing suggestions and plans stimulate ideas on your part, please send them to the Chairman of the Council. VOTES on "whither sculpture" should be addressed likewise to Fred Martin, Chairman Artists' Council, S.F.A.A., 800 Chestnut Street.

1958 Oil and Sculpture Awards. Action was taken at the November 12 meeting to limit purchase prizes to a maximum of \$500 in each of the two media, prizes up to that amount to be awarded at the artist's price. Funds remaining after such prizes will be distributed in cash awards of not less than \$100 each.

The Adeline Kent Memorial Fund Committee, of which Ruth Cravath is chairman, has been exploring various possibilities for raising additional funds to make a total of \$10,000 available for a scholarship endowment. A retrospective exhibition of Adeline Kent's work together with entertainments for which entrance fees would be charged is being considered. The fund continues to increase from contributions. Checks should be addressed to the Adeline Kent Fund, 800 Chestnut Street.

Dates for the 1958 Oil and Sculpture Annual are April 9 through May 4 at the San Francisco Museum. No affirmative answer has been received from an Eastern juror as yet. The first two invited had prior commitments, but asked that they be extended invitations in 1959.

The 1958 Open Membership Exhibition is scheduled to open in late November at the California Palace of the Legion of Honor. Prior commitments precluded its being hung at the S.F. Museum.

Artists' Council Secretary. The notice of the election of Irene Pattinson as Secretary at the August 13, 1957 meeting was inadvertently omitted from the NEWSLETTER.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In response to our request for comments from the membership on the jurying of the Annuals, we received the following from Mary Navratil:

"Re the several letters centering mainly on the 'jury problem' I would like to submit the following in response to the general invitation in the NEWSLETTER for comment.

"Considering that the Members' Shows at the de Young were generally conceded to be highly successful especially as to quality, perhaps it would be wise to extend the same non-jury procedure to the Annuals, at least for a try.

"Importantly, this procedure if successfully employed, would provide a real and dependable privilege of Membership, plus the wide-coverage shows apparently so much desired. To care for the matter of acceptance at juried SFAA Annuals as qualification for membership, and to cull out work of insufficient merit, the non-member entries could be juried as usual, as with the prizes.

"From the experience of the de Young shows, it seems the artists, when left to his own responsibility, will choose to submit his best work, irrespective of the particular style he, or she, or others might be currently exploring, employing, exploiting or pushing. (It is taken for granted that a reasonable 'age' limit would be imposed on entries).

"Perhaps in the last analysis it seems basically wrong, once having achieved Artist Member status, for the artist to be put in a position either to judge or to have his work judged by fellow members, or, for that matter, by any others considered as being of equal status.

"On the purely practical side, this procedure if found otherwise desirable, should also mean a big saving of time, work, and expense for all concerned.

Sincerely, Mary Navratil"

#### ADDENDA TO OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

It was brought to our attention that in the NEWSLETTER list of S.F. Arts Festival awards, we did not include the firm of CAMPBELL and WONG, S.F.A.A. member. The firm received a merit award for their exhibit showing the collaboration of art and architecture. A like award was given to the firm of Marquis and Stoller.



An announcement of the publication of a portfolio of 24 drawings and watercolors by MEL STRAWN and his wife Bernice entitled New Lines was received recently. The portfolio may be ordered from Mr. Strawn, 607 Cherry Lane, East Lansing, Mich. Price \$5.25.

S.F.A.A. members who took awards in the San Francisco Women Artists' 32nd Annual Exhibition at the S.F. Museum were IRENE PATTINSON, who received the Vera Adams Davis Memorial Prize in Watercolor and Graphics, and BELLA FELDMAN, who was awarded the Louise S. Ackerman Award in Decorative Arts. LEAH R. HAMILTON and LUCILLE M. PARIS received Honorable Mentions in Painting and Graphics, and BELLA FELDMAN in Sculpture.

GAIL COLE had a very successful show of paintings at the California Palace of the Legion of Honor during November. Successful both in the matter of comment and sales. One of the oils was a portrait of S.F.A.A. Secretary, Marcelle Winterburn, entitled "Concerto."

WALTER ASKIN received a \$100 award for his watercolor "Doris" in the 37th National Exhibition of the California Watercolor Society at Pasadena. The exhibit will be shown sometime in the future at the Richmond Art Center.

The Sophia Mosaic Mural by LOUISA JENKINS was unveiled October 20 at the College of the Holy Names in Oakland.

ELISE HAAS and RUTH CRAVATH won prizes in the Grace Cathedral exhibition of religious art.

RALPH PUTZKER's one-man show opened at L'Envoi on December 19th. The exhibition will continue through January 15.

DORR BOTHWELL will be exhibiting a room full of oil paintings at the M. H. de Young Memorial Museum beginning December 24th and continuing through January 26. A one-man show of her work will also open at the Meltzer Gallery in New York during Easter week.

Another SFAA member who is being given a one-man exhibition in New York is THOMAS HARDY. The showing will open very soon at the Krauchaar Gallery at 1055 Madison Avenue.

Members RICHARD DIEBENKORN and SONIA GECHTOFF won special awards at the Santa Barbara exhibit, which was recently shown at the California Palace of the Legion of Honor. RICHARD DIEBENKORN and BILL ALLEN, C.S.F.A. student, also won purchase prizes in the exhibition.

RUTH CRAVATH will be showing portrait sculpture and DORR BOTHWELL will be showing prints in a joint exhibition to open in February at the newly opened S.F. gallery, The Attic, on Columbus Avenue, S.F.

BIG NEWS!! . . . SATURDAY SCHOOL . . . NEW EVENING CLASSES . . . A BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL MEN'S CLASS . . . AND A NEW MUCH-WANTED DAY COURSE.

An important announcement from the School is that beginning with the Spring semester, which starts February 3, there will be SATURDAY CLASSES. These will include Painting (Sonia Gechtoff), Drawing (Frank Lobdell), Pre-College Painting for high school students (Wally Hedrick), Ceramics (Ernie Kim) and a repeat of last year's more than successful photography seminar with Dorothea Lange, which, by the way, is not open to anyone who took it last year. There will also be a Saturday morning class for children between the ages of 7 and 14 (Lois Fiscus). Classes will meet from 9:30 to 12:30 with the following exceptions: the Photography seminar will meet from 10 to 12 a.m. and the Children's class from 9:30 to 11:30.

Regular registration dates for Spring term are January 27-31, however S.F.A.A. members and their friends are urged to register by January 15 for classes are limited in size and there is always the possibility they will become filled. Registrations for Dorothea Lange's seminar should be completed by JANUARY 10.

The success of the Saturday classes will depend on getting the word out that they are being scheduled. You can help by telling everyone who might be even remotely interested.

Additional EVENING CLASSES are also being scheduled. These are Life Drawing (Ivan Majdrakoff), Visual Communication, a class in advertising art (Milton Halberstadt), and Commercial Illustration (Jim Forman).

At the suggestion of some of the Board members and other businessmen, CSFA is programming a SPECIAL COURSE IN PAINTING FOR BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL MEN. Doctors and lawyers and business executives . . and non-executives will have their own class. The course will be arranged to accommodate those who "can't draw a straight line," but would like to learn to paint and to understand all types of painting as well as those who have been studying painting or practicing on their own and are fairly proficient. James McCray will be instructing.

We've been asked and asked to have a SILKSCREEN class at other times than during the summer. This spring there will be a complete silkscreen course with J. Edward Murphy instructing.

The BEAUX ARTS BALL was wonderful . . a great success and lots of fun. The "Post Mortem" Cocktail party should have been called the "Post Viva" party! And the benefit check was most gratefully received by the California School of Fine Arts. Thank you, San Francisco Sponsors . . very much.

The First Annual Student Juried Exhibition at C.S.F.A. sponsored by the Student Body Association and completely organized by students was an excellent show. Its punch-bowl opening on December 9th was a happy crowded event and a sizeable number of works were sold. It was also a first time for many students in what happens when there's a jury . . good experience for later on.

The Annual Christmas Sale the following week was also rated a success, particularly in terms of dollars. Those of you who do not attend these sales miss the opportunity of obtaining some fine pieces of work at extremely low prices.

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